



Chairing at Pine Grove

To start, we as elders greatly appreciate your willingness to chair one of our Sunday services. It is our prayer that you will be blessed through this act of service.

Needless to say, any of us are available should you have questions in the days (or hours?) leading up to Sunday. Please don't hesitate to call on us for help!

Preparing for Sunday

In the days leading up to Sunday, we would encourage you to spend a bit of time in prayer and Bible study to prepare for Sunday. Perhaps the Lord will reveal a thought to share in the opening or closing, or a verse to set the tone for Sunday. Most important, is to prepare your heart for the service. As part of chairing, you will have to either find someone to serve the elements, or serve them yourself. We have a guide and some verses to help you in this regard, if you feel the need.

Service Structure

The general order of service is as follows (the worship leader should have a list of songs for you as a guide)...

- Opening Song
- Welcome
- Music
- Communion
- Offering
- Dismiss children - aim for a 10:30 dismissal
- Song - at the discretion of the worship leader
- Message - done by 11:00 to 11:10
- Congregational Prayer
- Music
- Announcements and closing

The service generally starts with a worship song. After, you can welcome people to the morning's service and, if the Lord leads you, share a short opening thought or verse. Please also include a prayer for the morning.

After your welcome, there will be more music, then Communion. The offering (prayed for by a deacon) will follow after.

Children can be dismissed at this point. Following dismissal for Sunday School, the speaker can come to the stage to share the message; generally there isn't a need to introduce the speaker, but if we have a guest in the congregation you may wish to introduce them.

After the message is our time of open prayer. This time is very Spirit lead, and is reliant on your direction. To date, we have opened with a few prayer themes, and given the congregation time to pray silently along those lines. Some of the themes you could work from include:

- praying for friends or family who do not know Christ;
- praying for someone next to them;
- praying for those that are sick / ill;
- praying for leaders of the church;
- praying for leaders of our country.

Some music will follow the prayer time. Announcements, a closing song, and then a benediction (either by yourself, or the speaker – be open, but be prepared!).

Some Lessons We've Learned

Just a few of the lessons we've learned along the way...

The welcome: it is important to remember that your welcome, in many ways, sets the tone for the morning. There will be some who have had a busy week, or a difficult week, or some sadness or tragedy. Your warmth and friendliness will remind them that Pine Grove is a safe place to be Sunday morning. And... your focus early in on the Lord and His presence will remind them that it is on Him we should focus – not on our own worries or problems.

Communion: if you are asking someone else to do Communion, please make sure it is a Christian who is mature in their faith. It is important they understand the significance of the Table and the elements.

Humour: humour in a church is a very tricky thing. With such a wide range in demographics and backgrounds, an ill-timed joke or humorous comment could offend or upset someone very easily. It is best you tread carefully in this realm.

Praying for health issues: if you decide to include health matters in your prayer time, please remember the range of health concerns people face today. There are some in our church who struggle with short-term physical health concerns, long-term physical difficulties, mental illness, depression, addictions, and a host of other concerns. Sometimes there is a place for prayer for those who may be struggling in silence.

Time: managing time is always a tricky thing. It is up to you to do your best to keep the service running on time. While we do not want to see a message cut short, or a prayer time shortened, we must also remain sensitive to those serving elsewhere in the church, namely Sunday School.

"Innovating": as you've probably gathered, we are an eldership that loves to experiment and test new waters. That said, our own experiences over the years have given us a feel for some of the things that will – and will not – go over well! All that to say, if you have an idea for something new or different in chairing, please run it by us first.

In Closing

By chairing, you are playing a key role in our worship service. We thank you so much for your willingness to serve, and look forward to worshipping with you on Sunday!